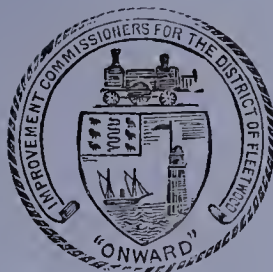


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Improvement Act District of Fleetwood.

Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report.

FLEETWOOD URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

YEAR 1893.

To the Fleetwood Improvement Commissioners.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

There were 366 births and 256 deaths registered in this Sanitary District during the year 1893.

The population of the District is estimated at 11,300, the total acreage being 3,848 acres.

The death rate for the year excluding 9 deaths from accident and 5 others who also did not belong to the district, amounted to 21·4 per 1,000, the birth rate to 32·4.

The death rate under one year was 7·4 per 1,000, and compared with births 114 per 1,000 births.

The death rate from zymotic disease at all ages was 4·6 and the percentage of deaths from zymotic disease, to total deaths, came to 2·3 per cent.

The mortality from all causes at subjoined ages was as follows :—

At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5.	5 years and under 15.	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.
256	84	55	18	12	53	34

Of the deaths over 65, 8 were over 80, and 18 over 70, while 12 infants died before they were a fortnight old.

There were 91 cases of infectious disease notified under the Act :—

Scarlatina	20
Diphtheria	16
Membranous Croup	1
Smallpox	10
Typhoid Fever	35
Simple Fever	3
Puerperal Fever	1
Erysipelas	5
Total.....	<u>91</u>

The deaths were caused by

Smallpox	1
Diphtheria	6
Membranous Croup	1
Typhoid Fever	2
Puerperal Fever	1
Measles.....	18
Whooping Cough	14
Diarrhoea	9
Total.....	<u>52</u>

Since January 31st, 1890, when the Notification Act came into force, the number of notified cases occurring has been steadily decreasing even to the extent of nearly 50 per cent, and I have to draw your attention to the fact that while Measles and Whooping Cough were not in any instance either of them fatal in 1892, this year these two non notifiable diseases caused no less than 32 deaths out of 52 due to Zymotic disease.

Scarlatina cases were reported in greatly decreased numbers, being much fewer than in any year since 1889, and there was no death from this disease which is apparently so nearly allied to Diphtheria, and as equally terrible to meet with in its malignant stages.

With regard to Smallpox, 10 cases occurred in the district, the first being observed on the 25th April, and the last on the 21st September. The first case occurred in the wife of a traveller on foot who came here from a district where the disease was prevalent, and who had contracted the disease before arriving here. As far as practicable all the cases were isolated, and kept isolated so long as there was any danger of infection.

That vaccination properly and efficiently carried out would extinguish this disease is beyond doubt, and it might be enquired of those whose sentimental emotions urge them to object to such a trivial operation, where are now to be seen those dreadful sights from sequelae of Smallpox that our grandfathers used to tell us about? certain it is that 50 per cent. of the unvaccinated cases die, 26 per cent. of the badly vaccinated die, and of the well vaccinated 2·3 per cent.

Typhoid Fever made a sudden appearance during the latter end of August, and some of the cases were of a very severe character, 12 occurred in Lower Dock-street and its immediate neighbourhood, and the remainder in other parts of the town, from the North end of Poulton-street to Albert-street. This out-break can only be accounted for by atmospheric influences brought on by the long drought in April, May and June, and the subsequent heavy rains in July and August. At the same time the night-soil accommodation in the East side of Lower Dock-street is most oldfashioned and quite inadequate, and requires alteration, although it is 11 years since such an out-break occurred in the district, sporadic cases have been observed from time to time. Certificates were received notifying 16 cases of diphtheria and there were 6 deaths.

This is a most obscure, as well as a most infectious disease, and some authorities are of the opinion that it is scarcely influenced by sanitary conditions except of course that so far as those conditions act by lowering the general health of the individual, they make him a more likely prey to any disease, and also that family constitution is one of the most important elements favouring its development.

One of the only certain points in connection with the subject, is that the aggregation of children in schools, especially in those over-crowded and ill ventilated, does in some mysterious way cause a few slight attacks of sore throat to blossom out into a severe, and often fatal epidemic of diphtheria. It has a partiality for particular districts, and is very fatal among young children. Measles and Whooping Cough are both most dangerous diseases, and require much more care and attention, both during the illness and after, than is usually given, and I strongly recommend that these two zymotic diseases be included among those notifiable.

Those houses in which infectious diseases occurred, to the number of 86, were disinfected with sulphurous acid gas, in some cases these houses were disinfected several times, more especially those in which small-pox occurred, in which cases disinfection by this means was persevered with more than once every week.

The disinfector was used for purifying bedding and clothing on 63 occasions.

The disinfection and purifying of houses and their contents after infectious disease, receives most careful attention.

The sewers of the Town continue to act in an efficient manner. "They discharge into the river without nuisance other than that inseparable from the removal of putrescible organic matter." They are frequently and properly flushed, and this operation never takes place when the state of the tide is such as to prevent full and requisite effect on their contents. No fewer than 16 new ventilating shafts and 33 surface grids are in the course of construction, which will allow of the perfect passage of air to and from the sewers, and still more efficiently prevent any nuisance or untoward effect which might be attributable to the discharge of offensive air.

The water supplied by the Fylde Waterworks Co. is received by the inhabitants of the town in the same unsatisfactory state as heretofore. Your other officers and myself had an interview with the Company's Engineer in September last. He informed us that the filter beds were in operation at Grizedale and that the water supply here came through them. We were then promised that the condition of the water would for the future be beyond complaint, and that also the circulation through the pipes would be improved by doing away with several "dead ends" which might be causing stagnation and thereby allowing sediment to be thrown down. This may have been done, but still the water in many parts of the Town is received in a turbid condition, and showing none of the sparkling transparent and well aerated characteristics of pure and wholesome drinking water.

The dairies and cowsheds have been frequently inspected, and have always been found in a fairly clean and sanitary condition.

Certain complaints about milk have been received and attended to, but in no case was any disease among the cows discoverable, such as would lead anyone to suppose that the milk given was otherwise than good.

The necessity for a Hospital for infectious cases becomes yearly more imperative, and I have to urge on you that such an institution ought at once, in spite of all difficulties, be established. It would prove of very great advantage to the district, it would save money to the ratepayers, it would save life and prevent some of the pain, trouble, suffering and misery to which those children are exposed, who, as regards most of those I have been writing about, are unable to be properly looked after and attended to in their own homes, and also whose illness among their brothers and sisters will only most likely bring more sorrow and grief to those who love them best. That it would be duly appreciated and taken advantage of, the experience of the Cottage Hospital gives us ample proof, and it would be made use of by all classes of the community. With this view it ought to be provided by ourselves, and it is wrong that it should be left to any other authorities to carry out this duty.

I append a summary of the Inspector's monthly reports, and also copies of Tables A and B.

Thanking you sincerely for the courteousness with which you have always treated me,

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN D. FAUSSET, B.A., M.D.,

APPENDIX TO URBAN SANITARY REPORT.

Fleetwood Improvement Commissioners.

Summary of Sanitary Inspector's Monthly Reports from Jan., 1893, to Dec., 1893.

YEAR	MONTH.	Rainfall.	No. of Complaints received during the month.	No. of Houses and Premises, etc., inspected.	Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses and Premises.	Houses and Premises, &c., Cleansed, Repaired, and Whitewashed.	Houses Disinfected after Infectious Diseases.	House Drains Repaired, Cleansed, &c.	House Drains Trapped or Ventilated.	Privies and Water Closets.			
										Repaired Cleansed, etc.	Supplied with Water.	New provided.	Drained.
1893	January ...	'90	1	40	19	13	7	12	2	1744	9	9	9
	February ...	2'97	2	28	21	7	7	12	8	1916	—	—	—
	March... ..	1'41	—	41	25	4	4	18	17	2223	4	3	3
	April	'33	1	38	26	11	6	10	14	1924	10	10	10
	May	1'91	1	52	34	6	5	7	2	3159	2	—	—
	June	'92	2	34	22	5	5	4	8	2138	5	5	5
	July	3'38	1	27	14	3	3	18	10	1971	10	10	10
	August	3'85	3	76	42	3	2	23	12	2793	9	9	9
	September ...	4'60	2	56	17	7	7	19	1	2345	1	1	1
	October	6'33	2	100	52	32	26	8	2	2385	8	8	8
	November ...	1'84	—	68	51	9	9	7	6	3253	9	9	9
	December ...	3'02	—	34	17	5	5	5	6	2669	9	9	9
Total 1893...		31'46	15	594	340	105	86	143	88	28520	76	73	73
Total 1892...		31'05	13	537	332	91	58	105	79	22777	73	73	73
Total 1891...		41'29	21	544	367	135	121	110	123	19813	72	72	72
Total 1890...		—	20	487	384	122	98	89	107	14245	45	45	31
Total 1889...		—	20	416	338	52	45	272		8718	—	54	—

TABLE A.
Cases of Infectious Disease Notified per Mensem.

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Scarlatina	5	5	2	1	1	...	1	...	2	3	...	...	20
Diphtheria.....	...	5	2	1	...	...	...	1	2	1	3	1	16
Membranous Croup .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	1	2	2	1	1	3	...	...	...	10
Typhoid Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	21	8	3	...	35
Simple Fever.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	3
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	5
Total.....	5	10	5	4	3	4	2	5	29	17	6	1	91

TABLE B.—DEATHS.

Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria.....	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	6
Membranous Croup.....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Typhoid Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Measles.....	3	13	1	1	18
Whooping Cough	1	...	5	7	1	14
Diarrhœa	1	2	2	2	2	9
Total.....	...	1	3	5	7	5	15	3	7	3	2	1	52

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PORT SANITARY REPORT

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To the Fleetwood Port Sanitary Authority.

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have a favourable report to submit on the health and sanitary condition of the vessels which came here during the year. Only one case of infectious disease occurred on any vessel arriving in the port—a case of small-pox from a vessel from Smyrna. Your officers had no information with regard to this case, and the first intimation we received was a telegram from the Medical Officer of Health of his port of destination; we at once proceeded to the vessel, and at 12 o'clock on Saturday night we inspected and fumigated four of the rooms, and directed that no one should leave the vessel until further notice. On the following day the whole of the rooms and sailors' clothes were disinfected as far as possible. The ship was kept under strict surveillance until the following Tuesday, and the Medical Officer of Health of her port of destination was communicated with both by letter and telegram. No illness was apparent among the officers or crew when she left here. The method of notifying infectious cases in this instance proved itself imperfect and defective.

The waters of the Dock continue pure and unpolluted by any sewage or other noxious material. No ship arrived which it was necessary to inspect while laying in the roads, and until some arrangement is made by which the cost of such extraordinary inspections is provided from Imperial sources, I am unable fairly to advise a continuance of the special expenses incurred for hire of Tugs, etc.

The arrangement for a mooring station remain as before, at a distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the dock. A hospital has been erected for the reception of infectious cases arriving here. It consists of one ward 20ft. \times 30ft. \times 13ft. and containing suitable accommodation for nurses, cooking, bathing, etc. A suitable mortuary 10ft \times 12ft. \times 9ft. has also been placed near to.

172 Vessels have been specially inspected during the year, and all sanitary recommendation have been carefully attended to.

The tonnage entering and leaving the Port continues to show an increase.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN D. FAUSSET, M.D.

February 19th, 1894.

